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Style Invitational Week 1400: Back on track

It's finally Derby weekend, and we have our classic contest. Plus winning limericks.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post

By Pat Myers

September 3, 2020 at 9:58 a.m. EDT

+ Add to list

(Click here to skip down to this week's winning "ha-" limericks.)

- •Breed Poe with Screech and name the foal Raven Maniac
- •Gimme Some Mo x Finite = OK, Guess I'm Good
- Informative x Thousand Words = tl; dr

Like almost everything else this year, The Style Invitational's most popular contest faced a what-now? moment this past spring: The Kentucky Derby was rescheduled, tentatively, for Sept. 5. The Empress, not renowned for her Annie-like optimism, decided we'd better do something now than have nothing later: Instead of "breeding" the names of this year's Triple Crown nominees, the Losers worked with the algebraic triple Crown nominees are considered by the contraction of the contrnames of previous Derby winners.



But now: We have Actual Derby! So what the heck, let's do it again with the current crop: This week: Below is a list of 100 of the horses nominated for the 2020 Triple Crown races including the 18 scheduled to run in this weekend's Kentucky Derby. "Breed" any two of the names and name the "foal" to humorously reflect the parents' names, as in the examples above.

ehorse not included: This week's second prize.



As in actual thoroughbred racing, a \mathbf{name} \mathbf{may} \mathbf{not} \mathbf{exceed} $\mathbf{18}$ $\mathbf{characters}$ $\mathbf{including}$ \mathbf{spaces} , but may include punctuation and numerals. You may run words together to save space, but the name



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very simple but very necessary, so that the E may sort the entries and be sure to see your fabulous work among the thousands of foal names submitted.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1400 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Sept. 14**; results will appear Oct. 4 in print, Oct. 1 online — the same weekend as the similarly postponed Preakness Stakes.

Winner gets the Lose Cannon, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an official 1983 Kentucky Derby souvenir mint julep glass, donated by Loser Steve Smith. I understand that this is the same glass used to give 1983 winner Sunny's Halo his daily julep, on the rocks.



Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No 'Bility" or "Punder-achiever." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Wizards of HAs" is by Jon Gearhart; David Peckarsky wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday.

BRAND-NEW PODCAST! Check out "You're Invited," all about The Style Invitational! Hear Episode 1, hosted by Loser Mike Gips, at NRARS.org.

The Style Conversational The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's, published late Thursday afternoon, Sept. 3, at wapo.st/conv1400.



And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago \dots

The Wizards of HAs: Inking limericks

In Week 1396, our 17th annual $\bf Limerixicon$ contest in conjunction with the all-limerick dictionary OEDILF.com, we sought lims that featured "ha-" words.

4th place:

On Twitter, it's rinse and repeat.

He shares, but is slow to delete

What some bigot has posted,

And then he gets roasted

For beating a hasty retweet. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

3rd place:

Our football club's flailing regime,
In hopes that a change might redeem
Its poor image, took aim
At that godawful name.
So this fall we can all yell "Hail team!" (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

2nd place and the Poo-Pourri toilet spritzer:

Will they **hack** the election? You bet! We know Putin's not quitting his pet. Four more years of submission



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Is their hoped-for condition.

Say the Russians: We aren't done — nyet! (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Here's a fact that you simply can't airbrush:

Nothing's worse than a ${\bf hairy}$ old ${\bf hairbrush}$ —

Till the dread morning when

(As is feared by most men)

You have got to admit it's a bare brush. (Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.)

Hackery dackery dock: Honorable mentions

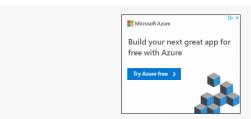
I got fired from **Hallmark.** Boss Fred

Hated all of my cards that he read.

I just couldn't do sappy —

Instead, they were snappy,

Like: "Eat your damn cake. Now drop dead." (Paul VerNooy, Hockessin, Del.)



I love coffee. Each day I drink lots -

At least two, maybe three or four pots!

But it must be supreme;

I will only take cream.

Call me one of the **half-and-half-**nots. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

"A three-weeks-dead whale?" you might ask,

"Or a spilled toxic-chemical cask?"

The olfactory sin

Is produced from within:

Halitosis while wearing a mask. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

For your health, just ignore what Trump preaches,

Like how beneficial your bleach is. $\,$

Take no medical cue

From the guy with weird hue;

 $Ignore the {\bf harangue}\hbox{-a-tan's speeches.} \ (Duncan Stevens; the sobriquet "harangutan" was coined by Jesse Frankovich in Week 1391)$

A '70s pop duo votes

To leave fame behind and raise goats.

John's in back, Daryl's lead

As they carry the feed -

Even now, they are still **haulin'** oats. (Jesse Rifkin, Arlington, Va.)



With tempers still running red-hot,

Alexander and Aaron are not,

Sadly, changing their minds.

That's how **Hamilton** finds

He will soon give away his last shot. (Chris Doyle)

While his life ebbed away from a duel,

And he pondered a fate that was cruel,

What did **Hamilton** think

As he lay on the brink?





"I wish Burr weren't such a big tuel." (Mark Raffman)

On Broadway, no cheering or clappin',

No chance to hear ${\bf Hamilton}$ rappin'.

But I won't make a fuss

'Cause I've got Disney Plus —

Now the living room's where it will happen. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

The **halberd's** a weapon of yore,

An ax with a spike at the fore.

Twas not like a mace,

Which, too, had its place -

The difference was bash versus gore. (Perry Beider, Silver Spring, Md.)

Tom Swifty was known to be dreamy,

So Miss West asked him up to get steamy.

"I'm happy," she said

From the edge of her bed,

"That you're **hardly** excited to see me." (Kevin Dopart, Washington)



Said Hippocrates, "First do no harm."

Were he living, he'd sound this alarm:

There's a pillow guy's cure

For Corona? Yeah, sure.

You buy that, and you might buy the farm. (Chris Doyle)

The police can be brutal, we saw,

As a video left us in awe.

Though we must deter crime,

Most agree that it's time

To reform the long ${\bf harm}$ of the law. (Jesse Frankovich)

"I will spin." All my nerves became icier;

With ten thousand, my choice was much dicier.

But I watched it revolve ...

"Lose a turn." "I will solve!"

Seems that "Wheel" is just **hangman**, but pricier. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn., who won on "Wheel of Fortune" in 2014)

The spelling of words such as "half"

Is a bane for an editor's stalf.

But English is tough

If you don't know your stough.

So sometimes, you've just gotta lalf. (Rob Cohen, Potomac, Md.)



Said the pigeon: "My greetings are warm, $\,$

But certainly far from the norm:

I just say, 'Hi! Coo!'

I've produced something new -

A haiku that's in limerick form." (Ann Martin, Brentwood, Md.)

The onslaught of Hurricane Papi

De-roofed Pharrell's bungalow. Crappy!

Yet the house seemed renewed,

In a lighthearted mood;

Each room of the remnant was **hannv**. (Duncan Stevens)

mon room or the remnant amppy (2 threat second

On a **hairpin**, a vehicle's drift

May allow for a turn that is swift.

If the torque isn't low,

The transmission can blow

And result in a pile of shift. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

Our mother took in a new mister

Who frequently cuddled and kissed her.

It wasn't until

We were reading her will

That we found out we had a $half\ sister.\ (Mark\ Calandra,\ Wenham,\ Mass.)$

The germ that makes covid-19 $\,$

Is a virus that's largely unseen.

But in eight weeks, I fear

Boorish clods will appear

Dressed as pathogens for Halloween. (Frank Mann, Washington)



A rabbi renowned for his noshin'

Told students to exercise caution.

We avoid by all means

Ham 'n' eggs, ham 'n' beans

But delight in some nice ham 'n' taschen. (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

Snotty clerk: "These have nary a blemish:

Hand-stitched handkerchiefs, sewn by the Rhemish!"

I replied, though, unthwarted,

 $\hbox{``All mine, too, are imported!'}$

See this one in my pocket? It's phlegmish." (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

My young daughter said, "Coffee with lime $\,$

Is useful at **hangover** time."

It's good information —

But what consternation:

My kid's more drink-savvy than I'm! (Sharon Neeman, Pardes Hannah, Israel)

This Brexit approval I'm killing!

Whatever it takes, I am willing —

Bring back the old system!

I'm sure you've all missed 'em:

The ha'penny, farthing and shilling. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville, Md.)

Though Passover last left us reeling,

Next year's will be much more appealing.

The '21 Seder

Won't reach a new nadir —

Let's just say **Haggadah** good feeling. (Jesse RIfkin)

"The back-to-school season's so cute —

How I love watching little Sam scoot

With his backpack and lunch,

And his socks in a bunch,

And his state-of-the-art **hazmat** suit!" (Melissa Balmain)

In the Louvre they sustained some bad luck;

A suicide bomber had struck.

Covered in remnants

Of Rubens and Rembrandts,

The Venus de Milo said, "Flipping heck! What on earth just **happened?**" (Bob Turvey, Bristol, England)

 $Still\ running-deadline\ Monday\ night,\ Sept.\ 7:\ our\ contest\ for\ fake\ trivia\ about\ summer.$ See wapo.st/invite1399.

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The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.

Below: The 2020 Triple Crown nominees (among almost 400) to use as "parents" in Week 1400.

See the list in three columns of text here.

Amen Corner

American Baby

Ancient Land

Art Collector

As Seen on TV

Astaire

Atone

Attachment Rate

Authentic

Background

Beachcombing

Believe Now

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Candy Machine

Caracaro

Censored

Cezanne

Charlatan

Close Shave

Convict

Cool Runnings

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Digital

Disc Jockey

Double Crown

Dr Post

Eight Rings

Energized

Enforceable

Established

Explosive

Fancy Liquor

Fantastic Day

Farmington Road

Fast Enough Finite

Finnick the Fierce

Fore Left

Fort Knox

Full Flat

Gimme Some Mo

Great Power

Hail to the Chief

High Velocity

Hit the Road

Honor A.P.

Idol

Informative

Invader

Kid Mercury

King Guillermo

Kowalski

Laser Show

Life on the Road

Major Fed

Market Analysis Max Player

Modernist

Money Moves

Mr. Kringle

Necker Island

No Salt

No Shirt No Shoes

Ny Traffic Party Town

Patrol

Pneumatic

Poe

Positively Awesome

Ready to Roll

Relentless Dancer

Say When

Scabbard

Screech

Semper Fi

Shooters Shoot

Shoplifted

Sole Volante

Something Natural

South Bend

Special Day

Spice Is Nice

Storm the Court

Super John

Superfecto

Talkin Malice

Tap It to Win

Telephone Talker

The Falcon

Thousand Words

Tiz the Law

Tons of Gold

Top Draw

Unrighteous

Villainous

Weekend in Court

Well Connected

Winning Impression

Wrecking Crew

Source: Bloodhorse.com

0 Comments



Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. Follow

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